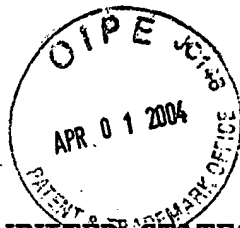


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PATL

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : Hitoshi Hidaka et al.) Group Art Unit 2635
Appl. No. : 09/874,185)
Filed : June 4, 2001)
For : ARTICLE IDENTIFYING SYSTEM)
FINDING SHORTEST OVERALL)
Examiner : Nicholas L. Linnenkamp)

REQUEST FOR APPROVAL OF DRAWING CHANGES

Hon. Commissioner
of Patents and Trademarks
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

This is to request for approval of drawing changes in which a reference number "780" in Figure 7 is changed to 780A, 780B and 780C to overcome the objection to the drawings in the office action. Amendment to the formal drawing will be deferred until allowance of this case.

Respectfully submitted,

MURAMATSU & ASSOCIATES

Dated: 3/22/04

By: Yasuo Muramatsu
Yasuo Muramatsu
Registration No. 38,684
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(714) 753-1127

approved EX 622-04